REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

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1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)	2. REPORT DATE 31-MAY-95	3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED 01-MAR-95 to 31-MAY95

4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE	5. FUNDING NUMBERS
Correlation and Gradients Characteristic Parameters in Europe	N68171-94-C-9119

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Ramot -University Authority for Applied Research and Industrial Development Ltd., P.O.B. 39296, Tel-Aviv 61392, Israel	731/2 (Interim) 3

9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)	10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER
Naval Regional Contracting Center Detachment London, Block 2, Wing 11, Due Complex, Eastcote Road, Ruislip, Middx, HA4 8B5, England	

11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

DISTRIBUTION UNLIMITED

12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

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12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE

DTIC SELECTED JUN 1 5 1995 F

13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)

ABSTRACT

The processing and the analysis of the computer sounding vertical ionograms for the station Roquetes, Spain was made from June to November of 1991 (approximately 4300 ionograms) for the evaluation of F spread echo and scattered conditions in F layer. The examples of the ionograms with spread and disturbed signals and first results of their analysis are given for 1991.

14. KEY WORDS

Ionosphere, F layer, analysis, computer vertical ionograms, spread of the echo, indexes, processing, probability, number of cases, sporadic layer Fs

15. NUMBER OF PAGES 15

17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT
UNCLASSIFIED	UNCLASSIFIED	UNCLASSIFIED

NSN 7540-01-280-5500

Standard Form 298 (Rev. 2-89)

DTIC QUALITY INSPECTED 3

19950613 013

CORRELATION AND GRADIENT CHARACTERISTICS OF IONOSPHERIC PARAMETERS IN EUROPE

by

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3rd Interim Report

March 1994 - May 1994

1. STATEMENT OF WORK

For the period under review we continued the computer processing of the vertical ionograms from the station Roquetes, Spain, 1991. This work has been done, as the work in the 2nd Interim Report, for the reason of the evaluation of spread F echo or the scattering conditions in the upper ionosphere (F1, F2 layers). The method of indication of the spread of the echo or determination of disturbances in the signals of the F traces of first reflection was evaluated in the previous period of work. This method was used without changes for analysis of the traces on the ionograms. A short description of this method was done in the 2nd Interim Report N68171-94-C-9119. For the sake of reader convenience we give below the description of this method too.

The evaluated indexes and the letters in the tables (see table in Appendix) which describe the spread and disturbed F traces are the next ones. Strong disturbed traces in F region with frequency spread are determined by the letters f, ff, fff (accordingly with numerical points 4, 5, 6) that describe strong, very strong and very, very strong disturbed traces with frequency spread of signals. Corresponding range spread of echo was determined by the letter r, and mixed type of spread - by both letters rf. The letters c, cc, ccc with points 1, 2, 3 are used for determining the traces with very small, small and close to strong types of spread. Approximately the letters c, f, ff and fff describe the traces with frequency brouding and the width of the echo in 0.5-0.8 MHz, 0.8-1.0 MHz, 1.0-1.5 MHz, 1.5-2 MHz. We use also evaluative letters such as B - for absorbtion, S - for noises, w - for week signal, A - for breaks in traces, E - for covering F traces by repeating reflections from E region (from E, E_s layers), T - for technical reasons of violations. The dash means the absence of the ionogram or the trace at the ionogram, the absence of the dash or indexes c, f, r means the normal echo (See table in Appendix).

The results of processing approximately 8500 ionograms for one year of 1991 were obtained. Parts of these results were given in the 2nd Interim Report. The results of processing the second part of ionograms for 1991 and their analysis are given here in Tables 1-4 and Figures 1-4. Examples of ionograms with different indexes for F echoes and evaluating operative table for October 1991 are shown in Appendix.

Hour probability P_h of scattered F traces, equal to Σ_i / N, where Σ_i is the sum of hour points for considered month and time and N is the number of

ionograms with evaluated F traces, is given for 1991 in Table 1 and for summer and autumn of 1991 in Figure 1. According to definition of this probability usual state of F traces has probability close to 1. This is seen in Tab. 1 and Fig 1. It can be explained of the fact that very little amount of traces is observed without any disturbances. In this case they have no points and their probability $P_h = 0$. The most amounts of cases have indexes ccc or points 1. They are the cases with few disturbances. That why the main hour probability of traces with scattered signals P_h is close to 1 (see also table in Appendix). Notice here that analogies' data for winter and spring were given in 2d Interim Report.

Numbers N_s of F traces with strong spread for 1991 (indexes f, ff, fff, r, rf) are given in Table 2 for whole year and in Figure 2 for summer and autumn of 1991.

Mean month probability P_m of traces with scattered signals and sum number $N_d = \Sigma N_s$ of strong disturbed traces (f, ff, fff, rf, r) for every month of 1991 are given in Table 3 and shown in Figures 3 and 4.

There is hour probability for every month of 1991 $P_N = N_c / N$ of F spread, where N_c is the sum of all frequency and range spread cases with indexes c, f, ff, fff, fr, r for all indicated hours in every day of each month of 1991, for station Roquetes, in Tab. 4. Here N is the number of ionograms with reflected signals for all indicated hours during every month.

One can see from obtained data the diurnal, season and terminator effects in the appearance of strong F spread echoes and scattered F traces. Detailed analysis of this data will be given in Final Report.

2. PUBLICATIONS

1. H. Soicher, F. Gorman, E. E. Tsedilina and O. V. Weitsman, Comparison of the IRI-90 with measured ionospheric parameters at midlatitudes, Adv. Space Res., 16, No 1, (1)129-(1)132, 1995.

3. RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Next we are going to consider and perform the work:

1. To obtain the probability of appearance of sporadic E_s with $f_0 E_s > 3$ MHz for the station Roquetes, Spain, 1991.

2. To separate all cases with full absorbtion of the signals in ionograms for 1991 and give their morphological statistics for one year.

3. To perform some special analysis and give geophysical interpretation of the diurnal, seasonal and terminator dependencies of observed spread of F echo and scattered signals at midlatitudes.

4. Estimation of correlation characteristics of the parameter f_oF2/f_oE.

5. A preparation of the results of the ionogram analysis for Final report and publications.

Table 1. Probability Ph of F traces with scattered signals : Roquetes ,Spain ,1991 .

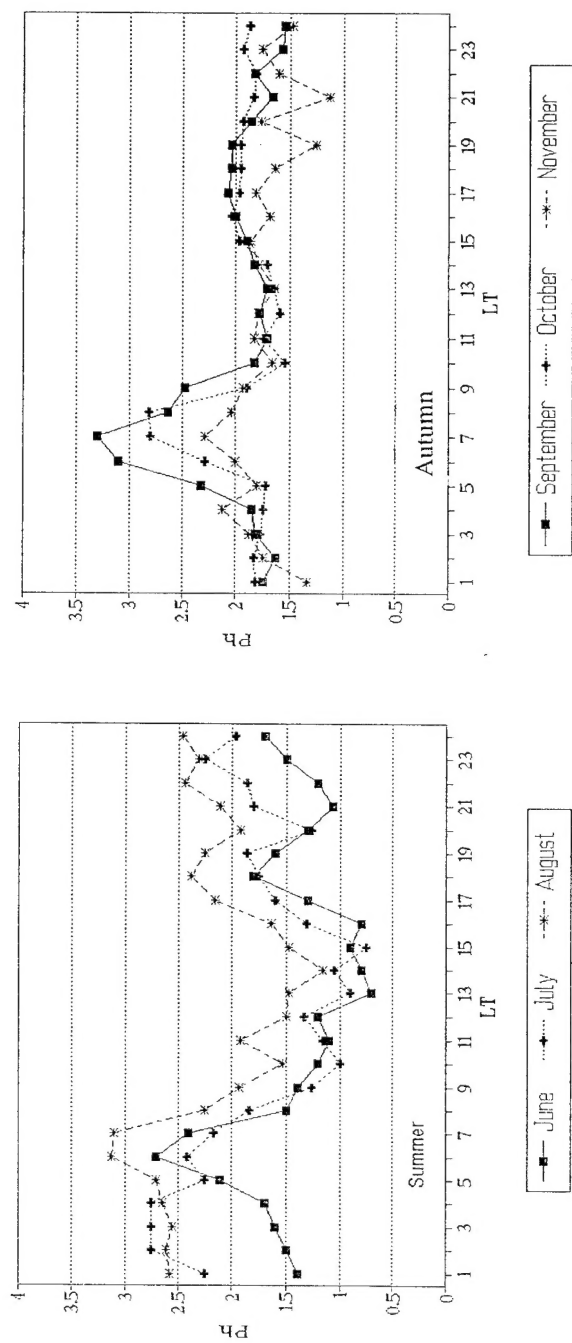| Hour\Mon	Dec -Jan	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	P
01	1.31	1.39	1.33	1.68	1.40	2.25	2.57	2.30	1.74	1.82	1.33	1.74
02	1.25	1.30	1.07	1.60	1.50	2.75	2.61	2.67	1.63	1.83	1.75	1.81
03	1.50	1.65	1.17	1.70	1.60	2.75	2.55	2.33	1.81	1.77	1.88	1.88
04	1.20	1.43	1.68	1.60	1.70	2.75	2.65	2.38	1.85	1.75	2.12	1.92
05	1.90	1.23	1.67	1.90	2.10	2.24	2.71	2.48	2.32	1.72	1.80	2.01
06	1.50	1.14	1.66	2.10	2.70	2.41	3.13	2.74	3.10	2.28	2.00	2.25
07	1.75	1.64	1.07	2.05	2.40	2.16	3.10	2.97	3.30	2.80	2.29	2.32
08	1.50	1.77	1.30	1.60	1.50	1.84	2.24	2.36	2.63	2.81	2.04	1.96
09	2.35	1.61	1.17	1.30	1.40	1.26	1.94	2.07	2.47	1.90	1.93	1.76
10	1.90	1.29	1.17	1.13	1.20	1.00	1.53	1.61	1.83	1.55	1.66	1.44
11	1.30	1.12	1.10	0.94	1.10	1.16	1.92	1.64	1.71	1.74	1.83	1.41
12	1.48	1.28	0.87	0.94	1.20	1.33	1.50	1.63	1.78	1.59	1.79	1.46
13	1.52	1.20	0.83	1.17	0.70	0.90	1.48	1.59	1.71	1.65	1.64	1.31
14	1.50	1.24	0.85	1.16	0.80	1.05	1.16	1.63	1.83	1.71	1.79	1.34
15	1.86	1.16	0.97	1.28	0.90	0.75	1.48	1.65	1.89	1.97	1.86	1.43
16	2.11	1.28	1.00	1.10	0.80	1.31	1.64	1.75	2.00	2.03	1.68	1.52
17	1.35	1.04	1.07	1.80	1.30	1.61	2.15	2.10	2.07	1.97	1.81	1.66
18	0.84	0.60	1.04	1.95	1.80	1.76	2.38	2.18	2.03	1.96	1.64	1.65
19	1.01	1.32	0.75	1.40	1.60	1.86	2.25	1.86	2.03	1.96	1.25	1.57
20	1.02	1.12	0.73	1.25	1.30	1.26	1.92	1.85	1.86	1.93	1.77	1.46
21	1.81	0.83	1.07	1.20	1.07	1.80	2.11	2.11	1.67	1.84	1.12	1.51
22	1.45	1.12	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.86	2.43	2.38	1.83	1.81	1.61	1.62
23	1.25	0.83	0.90	1.25	1.50	2.24	2.31	2.41	1.57	1.93	1.76	1.63
24	1.38	0.67	1.13	1.26	1.70	1.97	2.46	2.31	1.54	1.87	1.48	1.62

Fig.1 . Variations of hour probability Ph , Roquetes , June - November ,1991.

Table 2. Number Ns of F traces with strong spread (f , ff , fff , fr , r) : Roquetes , Spain , 1991.

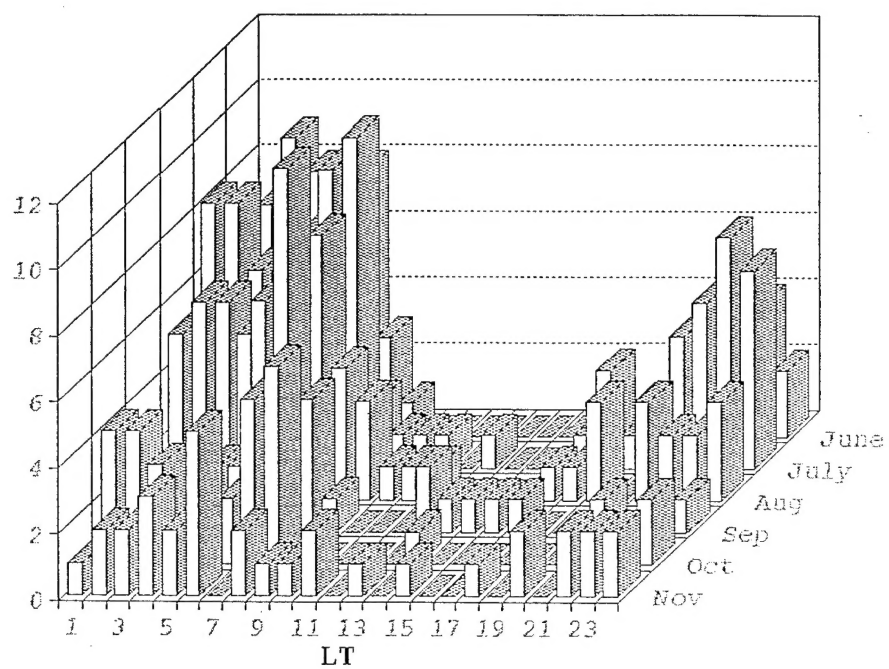| Hour\Mon	Dec-Jan	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	Σ
01		1		1		5	8	5		4	1	25
02				1	1	7	8	6		4	2	29
03			1	2	3	9	6	6		3	2	32
04	1	2	2	2	4	8	6	5	2	1	3	36
05	2	1	2		4	3	7	4	2		2	27
06	3	1	3	3	5	8	9	7	7	2	5	53
07	2			3	6	3	10	8	11	5		46
08	2				2	1	2	4	4	6	2	21
09	3						1	3	1		1	6
10	1						1	1			1	3
11							1	1			2	4
12								1				1
13							1		2		1	4
14				1					1	1		3
15				1					1		1	3
16									1			1
17					1	1	1	1	1			4
18				1	2	1	3	1			1	9
19							1	3			1	5
20	1										2	3
21	3					1	4	3				8
22	2						5	2		2	2	11
23	2					4	7	2			2	15
24	1					2	6	3	1	2	2	16

Fig . 2 . Number of F traces with strong spread ; Roquetes , Spaine , 1991 .

Table 3. Mean month probability Pm of F traces with scattered signals and full number Nd of strong disturbed traces (f , ff , fff , fr , r) for 1991 ; R-mean sunspot number .

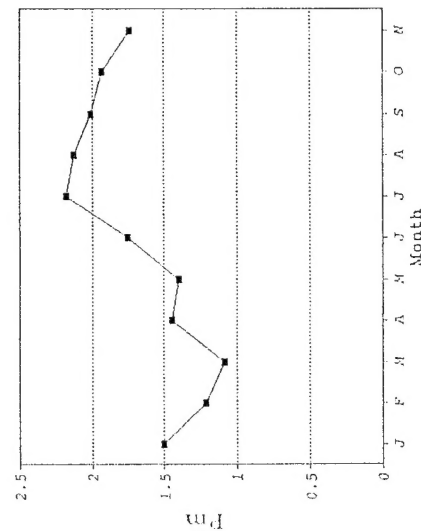| Month	Dec-Jan	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
Pm	1.50	1.21	1.08	1.44	1.40	1.75	2.18	2.13	2.01	1.93	1.74
Nd	23	5	8	15	29	53	90	63	34	30	32
R	140.6	167.9	141.9	140.0	121.3	189.7	173.7	176.3	125.3	144.1	108.2

Fig. 3. Mean month probability of F traces
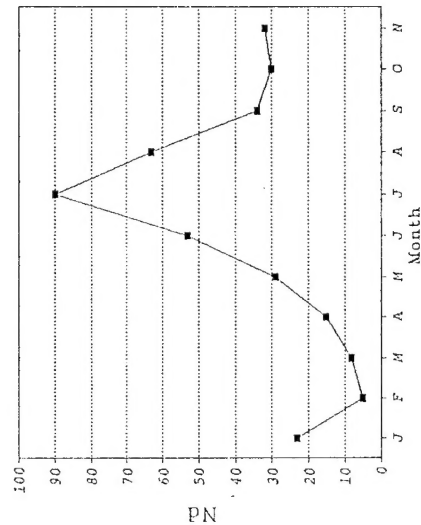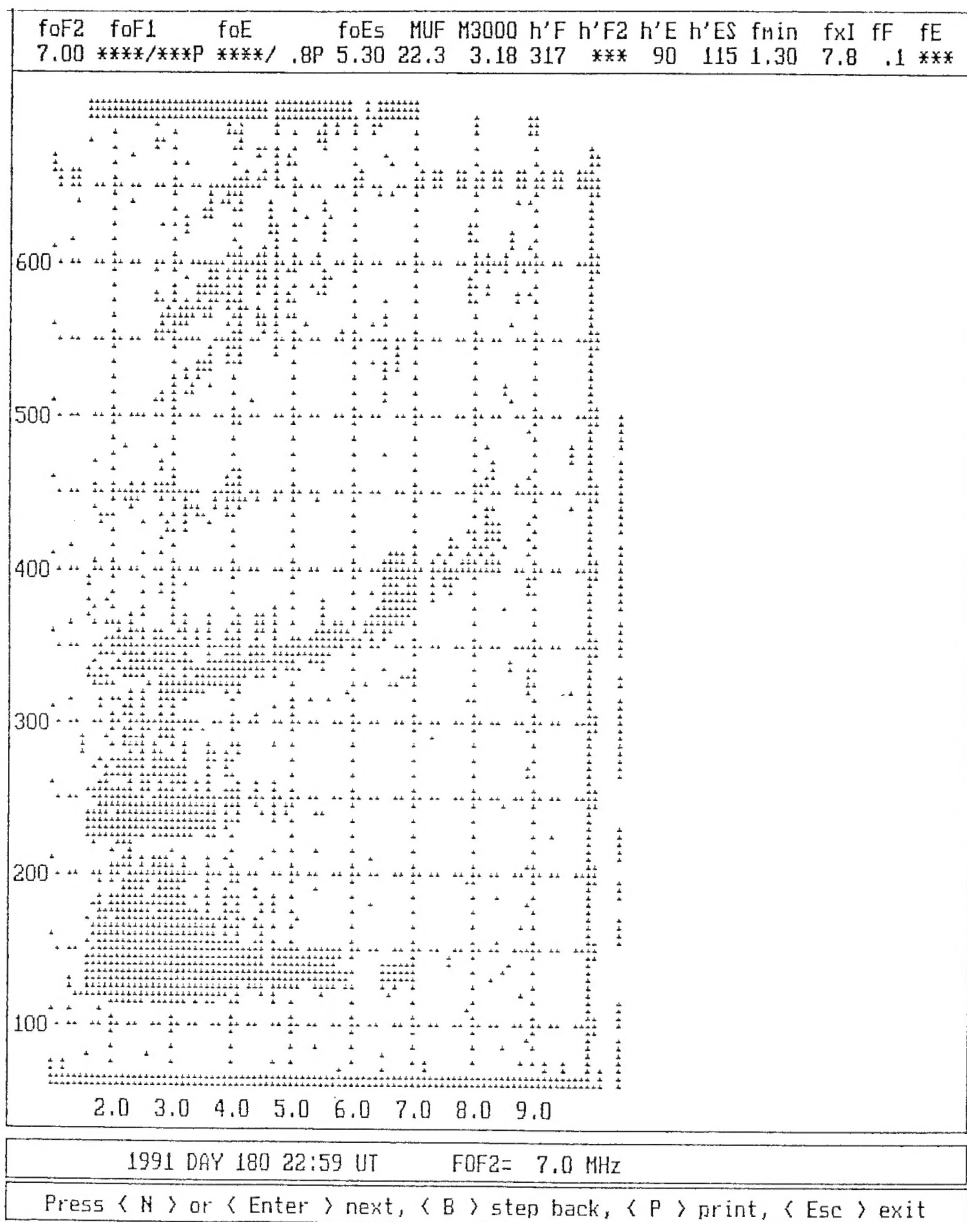with scattered signals ; Roquetes ; Spaine , 1991.

Fig. 4. Full number of full disturbed traces
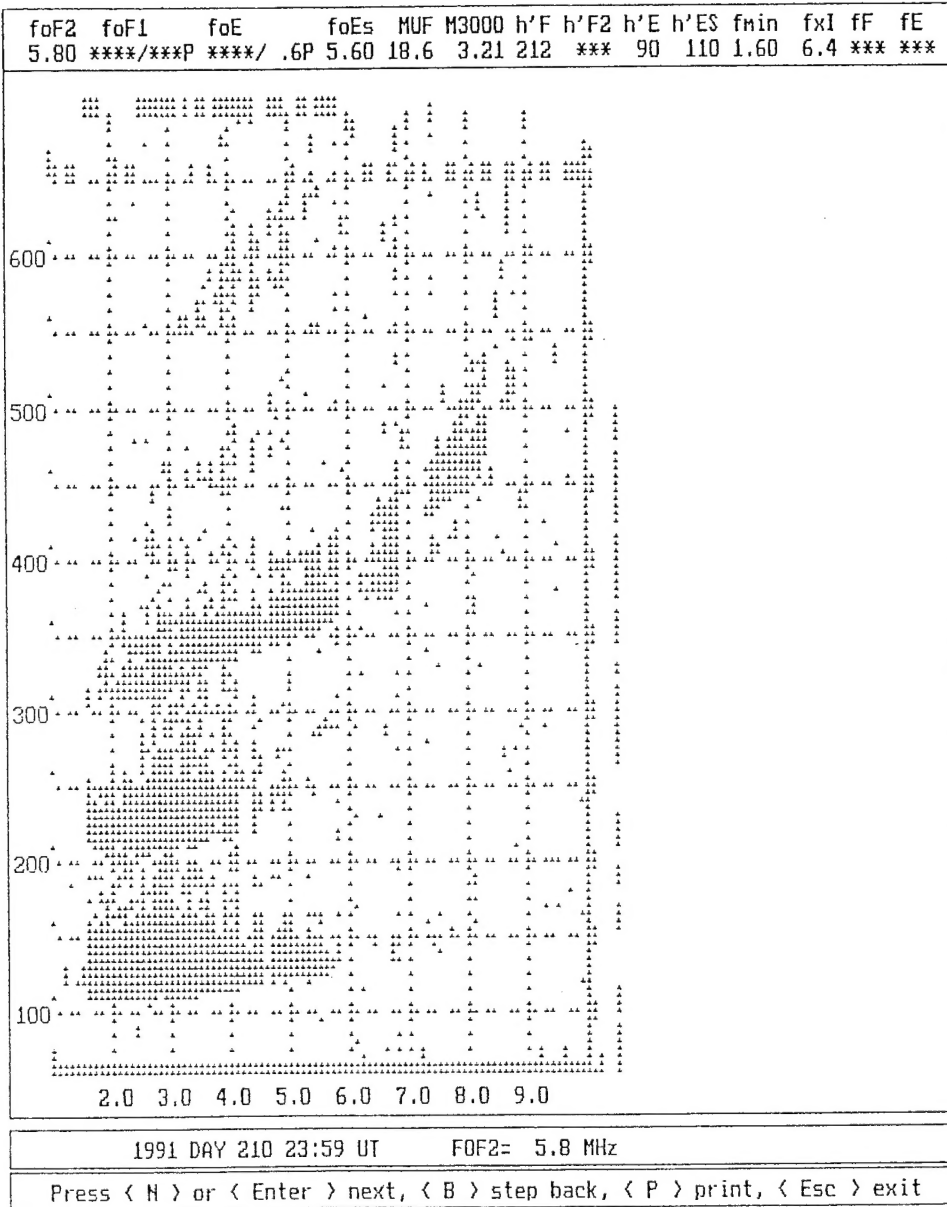for 1991 , Roquetes , Spain .

Table 4. Probability $P_N = N_C/N$, N - number of days, N_C - number of cases c , f , ff , fff ,r ; Roquetes , Spain ,1991.

Hour\Mon	Dec-Jan	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
01	0.100	0.130	0.067	0.110	0.130	0.460	0.430	0.400	0.190	0.210	0.170
02	0.200	0.130	0.033	0.220	0.140	0.540	0.640	0.570	0.074	0.207	0.290
03	0.200	0.170	0.069	0.110	0.170	0.540	0.480	0.500	0.190	0.200	0.290
04	0.160	0.130	0.210	0.220	0.200	0.500	0.500	0.340	0.300	0.250	0.400
05	0.200	0.045	0.130	0.220	0.330	0.380	0.540	0.520	0.320	0.240	0.280
06	0.160	0.015	0.140	0.440	0.550	0.410	0.800	0.560	0.860	0.410	0.350
07	0.220	0.045	0.036	0.520	0.430	0.320	0.760	0.660	0.900	0.630	0.320
08	0.170	0.180	0.037	0.170	0.170	0.320	0.240	0.320	0.670	0.650	0.390
09	0.440	0.043	0	0.055	0.097	0.053	0.210	0.190	0.470	0.200	0.074
10	0.110	0.083	0	0.063	0.074	0.059	0.120	0.071	0.170	0.034	0.103
11	0.050	0.042	0	0.059	0	0	0.170	0.120	0.071	0.068	0.103
12	0.050	0.040	0	0.059	0.080	0	0.170	0.110	0.074	0	0.071
13	0.050	0.040	0	0.055	0	0	0.190	0.069	0.140	0	0.071
14	0.050	0.040	0	0.110	0.036	0.053	0.040	0.170	0.140	0.068	0.035
15	0.200	0.040	0	0.055	0.034	0	0.160	0.065	0.071	0.097	0.071
16	0.200	0	0	0.050	0.070	0.115	0.110	0.071	0.107	0.032	0
17	0.050	0.080	0	0.200	0.035	0.106	0.350	0.130	0.036	0	0.038
18	0.050	0.040	0	0.300	0.170	0.240	0.450	0.140	0.069	0.074	0.080
19	0.060	0	0	0.050	0.101	0.276	0.320	0.036	0.067	0.170	0.100
20	0.160	0	0	0.050	0.071	0.037	0.320	0.077	0.034	0.240	0.190
21	0.260	0	0	0	0.057	0.130	0.380	0.260	0.033	0.190	0.160
22	0.160	0.080	0	0	0.034	0.170	0.430	0.420	0.210	0.260	0.190
23	0.160	0	0.067	0.050	0.140	0.410	0.380	0.440	0.071	0.170	0.200
24	0.240	0	0.067	0.050	0.260	0.310	0.360	0.480	0.180	0.270	0.160

APPENDIX

```
1991 DAY 180 22:59 UT      FOF2=  7.0 MHz
```

```
Press < N > or < Enter > next, < B > step back, < P > print, < Esc > exit
```

29 June 1991, index f

```
foF2  foF1     foE        foEs  MUF M3000 h'F h'F2 h'E h'ES fmin  fxI fF  fE
5.80 ****/***P ****/  .6P 5.60 18.6  3.21 212  ***  90  110 1.60  6.4 *** ***
```

```
600

500

400

300

200

100
        2.0  3.0  4.0  5.0  6.0  7.0  8.0  9.0
```

```
         1991 DAY 210 23:59 UT        FOF2=  5.8 MHz
```

```
  Press < N > or < Enter > next, < B > step back, < P > print, < Esc > exit
```

29 July 1991, index fff